

Newsletter August 13, 2012

Social Studies Core Academy

This summer, for the first time, we held a core academy for social studies teachers in grades 6 - 12. We had over 300 social studies teachers from across the state participate. This could not have happened without the support of the following great facilitators:

Tom Alleman, Carbon; Kyle Bracken, Salt Lake; Rebecca Brough, Granite; Dominick Bruso, Jordan; Marianne Evans, Uintah; Cher McDonald, Canyons; KarriAnn Raddon, Iron; Kaye Rizzuto, Jordan; Kenna Rodgers, Salt Lake; Jan Rolan, Granite; Quinn Rollins, Granite; Ashley Shaw, Granite; Julie Smalley, Juab; Pam Su'a, Jordan; Chris Sweeney, Carbon; Sandy Twiggs, Salt Lake; Christie Urquijo, Jordan; and Anandi Wilkinson, Legacy Preparatory.

Doug Jones from UEN and **Dessie Olson** from Salt Lake District helped coordinate the planning for the summer.

These sessions focused on the literacy standards in the Utah State Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects. The new Utah Standards for Literacy in Social Studies are game changers when it comes to social studies instruction. I look forward to hearing more about how Utah teachers are implementing the new standards in their classrooms.

On-Line Courses for Social Studies Professional Development

As you may know, we have begun offering social studies endorsement courses on-line. Rather than the one-week-long endorsement courses we have typically held, the USOE and UEN are developing and offering a full slate of endorsement courses designed to provide rigorous course content while allowing maximum flexibility for participants. Oh, and they will be really, really inexpensive. Our intention is to offer them with the only cost being the recording fee payable to our education partner, SUU. So teachers who need to add endorsements or just want to take these courses will be able to do so for around \$15 per credit hour.

Our first term started today. Registration filled up within one week, so clearly these courses are filling a need.

I have gotten a range of questions about these courses. Here are some FAQ's and my answers:

Question: The plan is to offer the courses again, right? I'd love to take all three classes, but I can only handle one at a time. I know it will take longer, but that is the best way for me to do it.

Answer: We plan to offer the courses in a regular rotation, so you can move at your own pace through an endorsement. Many will be offered more than once a year, but this will be determined by demand.

Question: How many classes can I take at one time?

Answer: You can take a maximum of three at a time, but these are rigorous courses that will demand time and attention, so please use your best judgment regarding course loads.

Question: You mentioned that the course and grade will appear on the SUU transcript, so can i assume that this is only open to SUU students?

Answer: SUU is working with us so that these courses receive credit and are recorded on a college transcript, but there is no requirement that you are a matriculated student at SUU. Any Utah teacher can register.

Question: Am I required to pay a registration fee if I am not currently teaching?

Answer: Yes, the registration fee is the recording fee that will make sure the course goes on your transcript.

Question: May I as an elementary teacher sign up for one of these courses?

Answer: Yes, absolutely.

Question: What courses will be offered?

Answer: We hope to offer all the courses necessary for the history endorsement and the geography endorsement. In addition, we intend on offering courses in economics, psychology, and specific special topics as ability and demand warrant.

Question: When will the next term begin and end?

Answer: The next term begins on October 22 and ends by December 16.

Question: Where do I go to register?

Answer: We will have links on OnTrack and at UEN. Here are the links for the next courses we will be offering.

Human Geography

http://profdev.uen.org/register/course details/155

US History II

http://profdev.uen.org/register/course details/159

World Civilizations II

http://profdev.uen.org/register/course_details/157

Social Studies Secondary Methods Course

http://profdev.uen.org/register/course details/164

Topaz Internment Camp in the News

As students of Utah history know, the Topaz Internment Camp near Delta was one of the camps created to house people of Japanese descent who had been forcibly relocated from the West coast during World War II. After years of literally toiling in the wilderness, the Topaz Museum board and volunteers have secured funding to begin the process of a permanent museum in Delta, and ground was broken August 4. Look for an on-line course offering on Topaz from Jane Beckwith and Dr. Bruce Barker in the future.

Constitution Day Teach-In: Aiming for 100 Classrooms September 17!

The Utah State Bar Commission, under the direction of the Utah Supreme Court, has appointed a Civics Education Committee. The committee is charged with working with schools to teach about the roles of the three branches of government and the importance of an independent and impartial judiciary.

The committee has launched a Constitution Day Teach-In on September 17. They have a goal of 100 classrooms across the state hosting guest teachers from the volunteers trained by the committee. If you want to have a guest teacher come to your classroom on September 17, click on this link, https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LDRXZX2, fill in the survey monkey data, and I will forward your request to the Utah State Bar. They will work to connect you with a volunteer judge or attorney who will come teach an interactive and engaging lesson.

For more information, here is the Utah State Bar web site:

http://www.utahbar.org/highschoolcivics/welcome.html

SAVE THE DATES:

Utah Geography Alliance Fall Conference Saturday, September 22.

Utah Council for the Social Studies Fall Conference Saturday, October 13.

Look for a special email about these conferences soon!



Thanks for all you do for Utah students!

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